WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a data train including moving image data composed of a plurality of frames;

designating means for designating an arbitrary frame among said moving image data;

definition detecting means for detecting definitions of a plurality of frames in said moving image data;

similarity range detecting means for detecting from among said moving image data a range of successive frames indicating an image similar to that of the frame designated by said designating means; and

selecting means for selecting one frame from the moving image data inputted by said input means based on an output of said definition detecting means and an output of said similarity range detecting means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selecting means selects the most definitional frame from a plurality of frames within said similarity range.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said definition detecting means detects the definition by using said moving image data.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data train includes additional information indicating the definitions of said plurality of frames, and said definition detecting means detects the definition based on the additional information in the data train which is inputted by said input means.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said similarity range detecting means detects the similarity range by using the moving image data.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data train includes additional information indicating scene change of said moving image data, and said similarity range detecting means detects the similarity range based on the additional information.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said similarity range detecting means compares the image data of said designated frame with the image data of the plurality of frames in said moving image data, and detects the similarity range based on the comparison result.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said similarity range detecting means compares image data of two adjacent frames in the moving image data,

and detects the similarity range based on the comparison result.

9. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a data train including moving image data composed of a plurality of frames;

designating means for designating an arbitrary frame among said moving image data;

similarity detecting means for detecting a similarity between the image data of two adjacent frames in said moving image data;

definition detecting means for detecting definitions of a plurality of frames in said moving image data; and

selecting means for selecting one frame from said moving image data based on an output of said similarity detecting means and an output of said definition detecting means, and for storing the selected frame in storing means,

wherein said selecting means reads out and outputs the image data of one frame which is stored in said storing means in accordance with a designating operation of said designating means.

10. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a data train including moving image data, definition information, and scene

change information, said moving image data being composed of a plurality of frames, said definition information indicating a definition of each frame in said moving image data, and said scene change information indicating scene change of said moving image data; and

selecting means for selecting one frame in the moving image data based on the definition information and the scene change information.

11. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a data train including moving image data and frame designation information, said moving image data being composed of a plurality of frames, and said frame designation information being added to said plurality of frames and indicating a predetermined frame in said plurality of frames;

designating means for designating an arbitrary frame among the moving image data; and

selecting means for selecting said predetermined frame from the moving image data based on the frame designation information added to the frame which is designated by said designating means.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the data train includes selecting candidate information which is added to the predetermined frame, and said

selecting means further selects the predetermined frame based on the selecting candidate information.

13. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a data train including moving image data, scene change information, and selecting candidate information, said moving image data being composed of a plurality of frames, said scene change information indicating scene change of said moving image data, and said selecting candidate information being added to a predetermined frame in said moving image data;

designating means for designating an arbitrary frame among the moving image data; and

selecting means for selecting the predetermined frame from the moving image data based on a designating operation of said designating means, the scene change information, and the selecting candidate information.